(b) the reasons for delay in clearning the scheme;

(c) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be approved;

(d) whether the Government are trying to obtain financial assistance from World Bank for this scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the source of funding the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme was examined in Central Water Commission (CWC) and Government of Maharashtra was asked to reformulate the scheme considering certain technical observations. Government of Maharashtra has not yet submitted the revised scheme to CWC.

(c) No definite time frame can be indicated at present in view of the revision of the project and the clearances required to be furnished by the State Government.

(d) to (f). Government of Maharashtra has submitted the scheme "Bombay IV Middle Vaitarne Water Supply Project" costing about Rs. 570 crores to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment for posing the project to World Bank for assistance. The matter is under correspondence between Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment and Government of Maharashtra regarding clearances from various agencies.

China's Sale of Nuclear Equipment to Pak

2389. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindustan Times dated October 10, 1996 captioned as "China sells N-equipment to Pak" and also in The Hindu dated October 10, 1996, captioned as "China sold more N-arms tech. to Pak";

(b) if so, the details of China's sale of nuclear equipment to Pakistan and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to meet the threat?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen news reports on the transfer of nuclear equipment by China to Pakistan.

(b) and (c). Government are fully aware of the clandestine nature of Pakistan's nuclear weapon programme. The security situation of India is constantly under review particularly in the light of developments in the neighbourhood. Government continues to take all necessary measures designed to cope with any threat that may be posed to the security of the nation.

Repair of NHs in Delhi

2390. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of National Highways passing through Delhi State;

(b) whether these National Highways are in a dilapidated condition due to lack of repairs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Five National Highways are passing through National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) to (d). All these National Highways are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition within available resources.

Pilgrimage Abroad

2391. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pilgrims, who had visited various religious places abroad during each of the last three years, religious place-wise;

(b) the criteria being adopted for their selection, religious place-wise;

(c) the financial/logistical/organisational assistance being provided to the pilgrims, religious place-wise; and

(d) the number of pilgrims likely to visit these religious places during 1997?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The number of pilgrims for various pilgrimages abroad during past three years is as under (These figures do not include pilgrims going through private tour operators) :

	1994	1995	1996
Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia	25,685	30,503	50,346
Sikh and Sehejdhari Jathas to Pakistan	5,380	5,210	5,085
Kailash Mansarovar Yatra	370	350	435